In claim 27, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In claim 30, line 1, please delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

In claim 35, line 1, please delete "claim 33 or claim 34" and insert --claim 33--.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-9, 11, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30 and 35.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Michael D. Schumann (Reg. No. 30,422), at (612) 336.4638.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: <u>13 July 2000</u>

James A. Larson

MDS(JAL)/klj